

Holy Thursday Homily 2022

On Holy Thursday we celebrate three things.

We celebrate the Last Supper...or more specifically the institution of the Eucharist.

We celebrate the priesthood...or more specifically the institution of the priesthood.

And we celebrate the washing of the feet...or more specifically

the life of service to which all Christians are.

What does the Eucharist, Priesthood and Service all have in common.

They all rooted in Jesus the Christ.

The person of Christ, the wisdom of Christ and the mission of Christ.

Now this is not just a matter of trivia, knowing something about our faith. Nor is it a small matter.

On this day we celebrate Jesus leaving behind a piece of himself.

Think about that (pause) a piece of the divine here on earth.

What do we know about Jesus the Christ.

What do we know about that piece of the divine.

We know from John the evangelist – that God is love (1 Jn 4:8)

We know from Paul's letter to the Galatians that the fruits of that divine piece are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal 5:22)

We know he gave us gave us nuggets of wisdom—like:

Love your enemies. And pray for those who persecute. (Mt 5:44)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
(Mt 22:37)

Love your neighbor as yourself – Matthew 22:39

We know he told us who we are

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. (Mt 5:13, 14)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Mt 5:9)

Do to others as you would have them do to you (Mt 7:12)

We know he told us what to do

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock,
and the door will be opened for you. (Lk 11:9)

Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. (Mt 6:37)

Seek out the Lost (The parable of the lost sheep) (Lk 15:4-6)

He know he told us to remember

Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them – Matthew 18:20

Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. (Mt 12:50)

Do not want to send them away hungry, (Mt 15:32)

Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again. (Jn 8:11)

We know he cautioned us

Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
(Mt 23:12)

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
(Lk 6:37)

Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:38)

Do not put the Lord your God to the test. (Mt 4:7)

Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. (19:14)

Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name
will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. (Mk 9:39)

Do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. (Lk 23:28)

The works of the flesh are: jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions,
drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. (Gal 5:19)

We know he told us who he was and we know he told us to continue his mission

I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no one comes to the Father, but through me. –John 14:6

Come, follow me, (Mt 4:19)

I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.”(Lk 5:32)

And we know he told us over and over

Do not be afraid

And tonight he told us,

“For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” (Jn 13:15)

In short we know what our mission is.

To continue the mission of Christ.

All we need to do is go out and build his kingdom. (long pause) Not ours.

At this point I would like to continue the Mission of Jesus

and would invite those who are having their feet washed to please come forward.